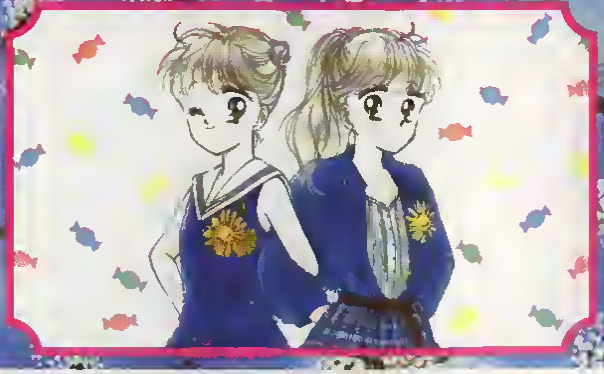
Manga/Fantasy/Adventure
USA $9.99

TOKYOPOP

Miracle Girls

Although Toni and Mika look like ordinary junior high school students, these twins possess the power of telepathy and teleportation! In this action-packed volume, Toni and Mika receive a letter announcing Chris and Marie's engagement. Since Mika has had a crush on Chris forever, and Marie is their sworn enemy the twins are understandably upset by this news. Bewildered by this confusing turn of events, they decide to journey to Dismas to rescue Chris. There, they're captured by the maniacal Marie and are forced to attend the evil engagement party.



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MIRACLE GIRLS

by Nami Akimoto

Miracle Girls

8

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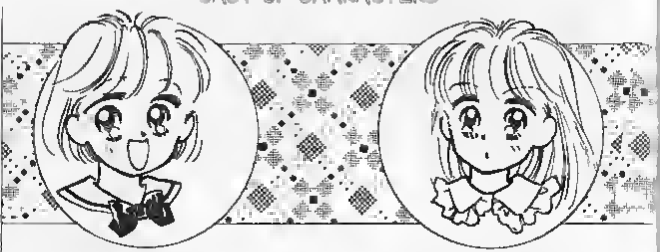
CAST OF CHARACTERS



TONI MORGAN

FRESHMAN AT UNIVERSITY HIGH. SHE'S A SUPER® ATHLETE AND A TERRIFIC GIRL. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SCHOOLWORK, SHE'S A KLUTZ.

MIKA MORGAN

FRESHMAN AT UNIVERSITY HIGH. SHE'S THE CLASS BRAIN AND A BRILLIANT INVENTOR. ATHLETICS TRIP HER UP THOUGH, AND SHE HAS A BIT OF A SHORT FUSE.

THEY GENERATE PSYCHIC POWERS WHEN THEY ARE TOGETHER. THE AMAZING GIRLS CAN TELEPORT TO ANY PLACE IN THE WORLD—AND THEY COMMUNICATE TELEPATHICALLY. NOW THEY ARE ON THE VERGE OF DISCOVERING A NEW HIDDEN POWER WITHIN THEMSELVES.

JACKSON NEIL

HE'S THE SCHOOL TRACK STAR, AND A CLASSMATE OF TONI'S.

CHRIS KUBRICK

HE'S ONE YEAR OLDER THAN TONI AND MIKA. HE'S ON THE TRACK TEAM AND A MEMBER OF CHEMISTRY CLUB.

SHINICHIRO KAGEURA

A NUT FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH. HE'S KNOWN AS THE WEIRD SCIENCE TEACHER.

THE STORY UNTIL NOW:

TONI AND MIKA MAY BE IDENTICAL TWINS, BUT THEY HAVE COMPLETELY OPPOSITE PERSONALITIES. THEIR BOND IS STRONG, THOUGH. WHEN THEY'RE TOGETHER, THEY'RE NOT ONLY PSYCHIC, THEY ALSO HAVE THE POWERS OF TELEPATHY AND TELEPORTATION. AT THE INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TRACK MEET, THE TWINS MEET EMMA, A GIRL WITH AN EERIE RESEMBLANCE TO MARIE, THE QUEEN OF DIAMAS. CAN THE LEGEND OF THE TWIN QUEENS BE TRUE? WHY ARE STRANGERS SUDDENLY ATTACKING EMMA?

BONUS

Hello! The cover for "Miracle Girls" B is aqua blue this time! (What blue again...? So I like blue, okay!) Colors like aqua blue are hard to reproduce in the printing process, so I was going to junk it. (Ah, but then I went ahead and did it anyway.) So that's a special bonus. Also, I'm including a bonus story from my secret stash. It's the original story that Part B is based on. I wrote it about six months before I began Part 1. I rarely do special short stories anymore, but included this one because it's just precious. (Ha ha!)

SLAM
COME BACK!!
KLAK
KLAK
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH US!?
MR X!!
MMPH...

JACKSON! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
OW THOSE GUYS WEREN'T KIDDING
YOU'RE SO STUPID...!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FOLLOW US AROUND. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE GETTING YOURSELF INTO!?
OH SHUT UP. THIS IS NOTHING
I CAN'T STAND SITTING AROUND NOT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING
WE HAVE TO FIND TONI—
AND GET OUT OF HERE...
YOU CAN'T GET UP YET...!
I TOLD YOU I'M ALL RIGHT

BUT...!
HUFF
HELP US TONI
I C..N'T DO IT BY MYSELF...
HUFF
PLEASE HELP!!
RUSTLE
THERE'S ANOTHER INTRUDER SOMEWHERE
SECURE ALL ENTRANCES TO THE CASTLE.
CAPTURE HER AT ALL COSTS
THAT'S AN ORDER FROM MR. X!

MIKA, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GET INSIDE...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...?
GRAB
!!

WHAT'S WRONG?
I JUST LOST TONI'S SIGNAL...
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN CAPTURED...
SLUMP
WHAT!?
SOB
ERK
WE'RE DONE FOR!!
H, HEY, DON'T CRY
TONIIII!
Grr

JACKSON!!
Smack
Grrr
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO TONI I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE FELT SORRY FOR YOU!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! IF YOU HADN'T TAGGED ALONG, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
slap
HEY! MIKA!
pow
pow
KNOCK IT OFF!!
STOP IT ALREADY!
CALM DOWN!
YOU'RE SUCH A BABY..
YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO SAVE CHRIS.
BUT HOW CAN YOU WHEN YOU ACT LIKE THAT!?
JEEZ

FINE! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT TONI ANYWAY!!
slap
LET GO!
OW!
TONI'S ALL RIGHT...
I KNOW IT
HOW DO YOU KNOW!?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
DO YOU WANT ANOTHER SLAP IN THE FACE?
I JUST KNOW!

I DON'T HAVE POWERS LIKE YOU GUYS,
BUT I BELIEVE THAT TONI AND I ARE LINKED TOGETHER.
YOU KNOW, SOMEWHERE, DEEP IN OUR HEARTS
ER...
AND I PROMISED CHRIS...
clank clank
NOTHING! NEVER MIND!
SO LET'S BREAK OUT OF HERE ALREADY!
WHAT?
clank
I DON'T GET HIM...
?

RUSTLE
HELP!
SHUT UP! DO YOU WANT TO GET CAUGHT!?
LET ME GO!
MMPH
Scramble
Scramble
YOU'RE CHRIS'S FRIEND, AREN'T YOU?
COME WITH ME.
NOW!!!
I THOUGHT HE WAS QUEEN MARIE'S BODYGUARD
WHAT'S GOING ON..?
.....?
SHH!
YOU....!

I HEARD THERE WAS AN INTRUDER.
BUT DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT IT. PLEASE, GO BACK AND REST.
throb
I SEE. YES...
THERE'S SOME COMMOTION OUTSIDE.
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...?
WHERE'S CHRIS?
I WANT TO SEE HIM. BRING HIM TO ME.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
WHY ARE YOU UP SO SOON!?
UH.. WELL.... YOU SEE...

THE GENERAL ORDERED HIM TO BE LOCKED IN HIS ROOM...
WHAT!?
SLAM
DAMN...
THEY REALLY PLAN TO KEEP ME LOCKED UP, DO THEY?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
NO WAY!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
SLAM
clack
clack
clack
creak
whoooosh
zaaaaaah
zaaaaaah
RIP
click
!

clack clack
creak
SWING
WHO'S THERE!?
WHOA!
STOP IT, CHRIS! IT'S US!
CHRIS!
HM?
JAKE!
TONI!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE...?
I BROUGHT HER HERE.
WE CAUGHT HER SISTER AND SOME GUY WE'RE HOLDING THEM IN THE DUNGEON.
WHAT...!? THEN...
MIKA AND JACKSON ARE HERE, TOO!
WE CAME HERE TO RESCUE YOU!!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO COME HERE BY YOURSELF!
JACKSON TOO...!?
ARE YOU CRAZY!? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MR. X WANTS!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT IF WE DON'T HURRY, THINGS MIGHT GET PRETTY MESSY

SECURITY IN THE DUNGEON SHOULD BE PRETTY LIGHT RIGHT NOW
JAKE...
THANK YOU.
I DON'T WANT...
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT DIAMAS TO BE DESTROYED BY THESE OUTSIDERS..
BUT HOW DID YOU GET BY PALACE SECURITY? YOU MUST HAVE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL POWER OR SOMETHING..
ER...
L, LET'S GO, JAKE!
?
dash
clang clang
DARN IT!
clang
ISN'T THERE SOME SECRET PASSAGE WAY OR SOMETHING!?
C'MON, MIKA! YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE!
clang
IF SO, WE WOULD HAVE USED IT BY NOW
KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY!
CHRIS RESCUED US THE LAST TIME...
HE ALWAYS SEEMED TO ARRIVE IN THE NICK OF TIME, LIKE MAGIC..

HELP ME
CHRIS
HUFF
HUFF
MIKA!
JACKSON!
AM I DREAMING...?

C'MON MIKA, SNAP OUT OF IT!
CHRIS IS HERE TO RESCUE YOU!
SLAP
SLAP
I'LL BUY YOU SOME TIME.
HURRY UP AND GO!
MR X'S LAB IS IN THE BASEMENT OF THE EASTERN TOWER.
OKAY THANKS, JAKE.
OH TONI...!?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE...
CHRIS...!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET YOU HERE.
ME NEITHER.
LET'S MAKE SURE THAT MR. X NEVER FINDS TONI AND MIKA AGAIN!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE JACKSON...
HEY JACKSON! STOP HANGING ALL OVER CHRIS!
STOP COMPLAINING AND KEEP RUNNING MIKA!
grrrr
WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT
CHRIS!! WHERE'S CHRIS!?
HE'S NOT IN HIS ROOM!
FIND HIM! HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR!
YES SIR!
THAT LITTLE PUNK!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, MR X!
GRR...
MR X! THE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE DUNGEON!
WHAT!?
IMPOSSIBLE!
WE ARE AFTER THEM.
THEY MAY HAVE JUMPED INTO THE LAKE.
THE LAKE IS IT!?
I LIED!
IDIOT!
AFTER THEM!
CONGRATULATIONS
LOOKS LIKE YOUR PLAN CAN'T EVEN KEEP A COUPLE OF KIDS UNDER CONTROL, MR. X
WHAT!
TO THE LAKE!
LET'S GO!
tremble tremble
WHY YOU...
I'LL GET YOU!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ARE YOU GUYS OKAY?
THAT'S THE EAST TOWER
LOOKS FAR.
MIKA!
SHUFF
HUFF
I'M FINE...
THIS IS BAD WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO MR. X.
NOT PAST ALL OF THOSE SECURITY GUARDS
WHAT!? WE'VE COME THIS FAR...
CHRIS!
I'LL BE FINE! WE CAN TELEPORT..
CHRIS!

MARIE!
I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO RUN FROM ME, CHRIS
COME HERE.
CHRIS...
!!
SO, IT'S YOU TWO AGAIN. YOU MUST LIKE INTERFERING WITH PEOPLE'S PLANS.
WELL, THAT'S ABOUT TO COME TO AN END

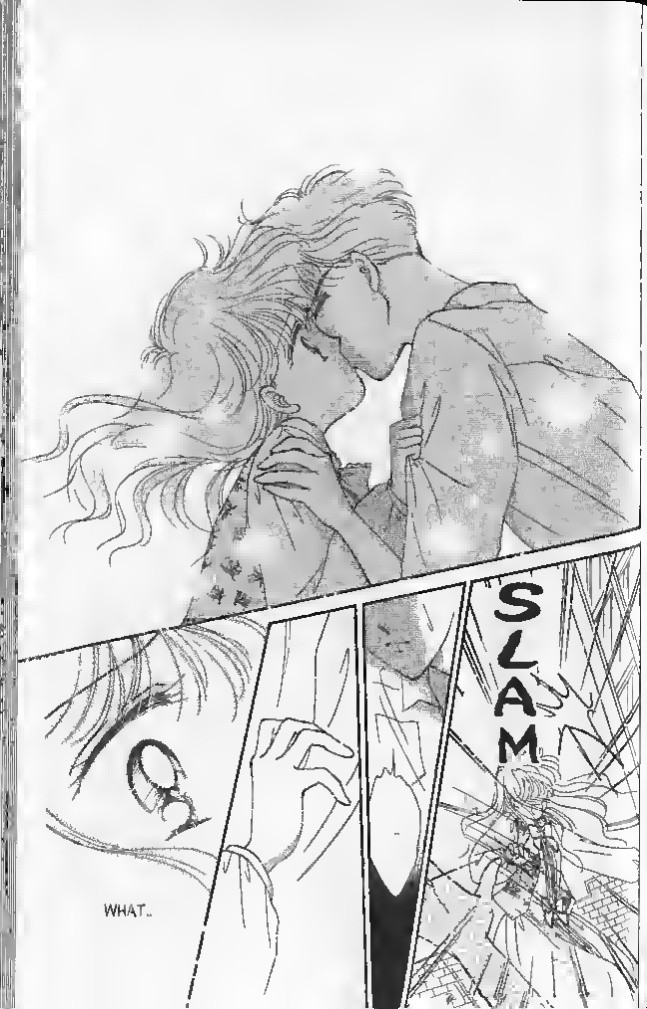
CHRIS! COME HERE, OR I'LL SHOOT YOUR FRIENDS! NOW!
CHRIS!?
WHAT...!
AGH!
POW
SMACK
CHRIS! IN HERE!
thump
WHAT!?
SLAM
click
HEY!?

OPEN THIS DOOR, CHRIS!
bam
bam
bam
bam
bam
DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY FROM ME!
CHRIS...
MIKA, YOU GUYS NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!!
TELEPORT WHILE YOU STILL HAVE THE TIME.
WE CAN'T DO THAT!

YOU CAN'T TELL US TO LEAVE!
MR. X IS RIGHT THERE!
I'M STAYING!
SO ARE WE!
YOU WANT ALL OF US TO GET CAUGHT!?
!!
JACK-SON...
I'M LEAVING THEM IN YOUR HANDS...
CHRIS
PLEASE
ALL RIGHT
JACKSON!?
WAIT A MINUTE!
LET'S GO!
NO
slap
NO!

I'M NEVER LETTING GO!
NEVER!
IF I LET GO NOW...
I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL EVER FIND YOU AGAIN
MIKA...
MIKA...

CHRIS!
IF YOU COME OUT NOW, I'LL FORGIVE YOU!
click
.....!
OTHERWISE, I'M GOING TO EXECUTE EVERY ONE OF YOU!
grab


SLAM
WHAT..

CHRIS!
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR!!
clack
!!
Bam bam
bam
PLEASE!
CHRIS!!

MIKA! WE HAVE TO GO!!
MIKA! PLEASE!
LET GO OF ME, JACKSON!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW CHRIS FEELS!?

Flash
I PROMISED TO PROTECT YOU...
I PROMISED..
NO MATTER WHAT!
I GUESS.. I MADE YOU CRY AGAIN..

OWWW!!
crash
I GUESS WE MADE IT...
MIKA
FLAP
Slap
slap
I'M SORRY
MIKA...
swirl
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR!? DUMMY!
LET'S GO HOME, TONI!
M, MIKA..
GRAB
JACKSON I BETTER GO..
YEAH..
I PROMISED CHRIS..
THAT I WOULD PROTECT YOU TWO, NO MATTER WHAT..

MIKA...
MIKA...
WHAT...?
PLEASE DON'T BE MAD AT JACKSON...
HE HAD NO CHOICE..
I KNOW...
I DO KNOW
...MIKA!

WE'LL SAVE CHRIS..
I PROMISE...
OKAY?
OKAY...

WHAT'S HE MOPING ABOUT?
HE SAID HIS STUDENTS LEFT HIM OUT
KAGEURA'S MOM IS VISITING

WHAT!?
THEY TOOK CHRIS!?

YES.. HER HIGHNESS AND MR X TOOK HIM TO THE EAST TOWER...
....

YOU'VE BEEN A NAUGHTY LITTLE BOY...
YOU MADE ME LOSE MY GUESTS
I CAN'T HAVE YOU INTERFERING WITH MY PLANS
ZAP
ZAP
GGGGGG
SO CHRIS, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH ME FROM NOW ON.

WHA WH..T ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?
LET ME GO!
MARIE?
CLICK
MIKA..

It's amazing how outrageous those old movies are. (And, of course they're so much fun!) Those are my influences, so maybe that's why my characters are so screwy

If so, then what's up with Masaki Takamura (from Part 2), who was serving Mr X then? I mean he was one of the more serious characters so how could he end up taking orders from such a hairbrained old man? Well, it's over with, so what's the use ...

But anyway, I ended up with a lot of old guys this time around

Mr Kageura, Mr Morgan (Toni and Mika's dad), Butler, General Gio, the Duke of Diamas, and of course, Mr. X. It turns out that Part 3 is full of middle-aged men Well, in the case of Mr X, I wish I thought of a better name for him— (Actually, I did have one but it's too late now .)

And for a brilliant scientist, he doesn't seem to be too smart I guess that's because I have no knowledge or interest in science whatsoever (Then why did you make him a brilliant scientist?," you may ask) I must have been thinking of those old movies with the mad scientists in their cheesy looking labs In the original "Batman, The Movie" the villians created a machine that turned humans into powder So guess what happened at the United Nations? Yep, all the world's leaders turned into dust Each country was represented by a different colored powder! In the end, the bottle holding all the different powders got dropped, so that everyone got mixed up together And, therefore, worldwide peace was achieved Well, if you took it too seriously, you'd go crazy anyway That's about the highest level of science that I can possibly understand So, well, I enjoyed it

rumble
rumble
rumble
YES MR. X...
I AM AT YOUR COMMAND...
VERY GOOD..!
HMPH
rumble
rumble
rumble
clack

flash
WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO A MAKEUP TEST!?
WE KEPT OUR GRADES UP!
I DON'T GET IT!
SHUT UP!
GET TO WORK!
smack
OUCH

HMPH!
YOU GUYS THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH LEAVING ME LIKE THAT?
BE THANKFUL THAT ALL YOU'RE GETTING IS THE MAKEUP TEST!!
CAW!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...
WHO LETS THIS GUY TEACH?
I KNEW IT... JEEZ
TONI! TONI!
YOU'RE NOT DONE WITH THAT TEST YET?
I FINISHED IT IN 5 MINUTES!
BUT IT'S FULL OF STUFF WE NEVER STUDIED!
C'MON! PLEASE TELL ME THE ANSWERS, JUST THIS ONCE!
NO WAY!

FOR JUST THAT SECOND, I UNDERSTOOD HOW YOU FELT...
CHRIS...
CLEARLY.

"NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE"
"NO MATTER HOW FAR"
"I'M GOING TO PROTECT YOU"
"I PROMISE..."
MIKA...
SNAP
I'M FINE!

THIS IS NO TIME TO CRY
WE HAVE TO RESCUE CHRIS...!
CAW!
RUN ROB

IN ANY CASE!
THE NEXT TIME WE TELEPORT TO DIAMAS, WE HAD BETTER CONCENTRATE!
MISTAKES CAN NOT BE TOLERATED!
I DON'T WANT TO END UP GOD KNOWS WHERE AGAIN!
DO YOU UNDER STAND CHRIS?
WHAT, TONI?
I'M GLAD YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR SPUNK BACK!
WE'LL WORK IT OUT!
BLUSH
ALL RIGHT THEN!
LET'S PRACTICE TELEPORTING!!
HOLD ON!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT!?

...OH BOY SHE ALWAYS GETS SO CARRIED AWAY
HEY ARE YOU LISTENING?
BUT OH WELL...
I CAN'T GO AT FULL POWER IF MIKA'S DOWN IN THE DUMPS...
HEY,
creak
THERE'S A LETTER.
IT'S FOREIGN MAIL!
FROM DAD?
CLICK CLACK
HEY...!
MIKA!
MIKA!
IT'S FROM CHRIS!!

NO WAY!
IS IT FOR REAL!?
THAT MUST MEAN HE'S SAFE!
C'MON! HURRY UP AND READ IT!
HOLD ON, HOLD ON...
RIP
BUMP BUMP BUMP BUMP BUMP BUMP
MIKA?
FLUTTER

WHAT'S WRONG..?
WHAT DID HE WRITE..
DEAR MIKA,
I AM ENGAGED TO QUEEN MARIE.
I HOPE THAT YOU, TONI AND JACKSON WILL SHARE OUR JOY.
I WILL BE SENDING YOU INVITATIONS FOR OUR UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT PARTY.
IT'LL BE HELD ON MARCH 24 AT DIAMAS CASTLE.
CHRIS KUBRICK
WHA...
WHAT IS THIS!?
HE'S ENGAGED TO MARIE!?
...IT CAN'T BE...

THIS CAN'T BE...
YOU'RE ENGAGED TO CHRIS!?
ARE YOU SERIOUS, YOUR HIGHNESS!?
IT HAS TO BE A LIE...!
OF COURSE,
CHRIS SAID YES
WHAT ...!?

WHERE'S CHRIS...
HE'S WITH MR X.
OH, WE'RE GOING TO BE SO BUSY! WE HAVE TO GET READY FOR THE PARTY!
LET'S GO BUTLER.
MR X. WHAT IS HE THINK-ING NOW...!

IT'S CHRIS'S HANDWRITING...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT..
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THERE ARE PLANE TICKETS INSIDE, TOO..

Creating a comic book is really time-consuming. Let me tell you! I have to think up the story, create the dialogue, pencil the sketches, draw the borderlines, ink in the pencil sketches, erase the pencil marks, paint, apply tone and whiteout any blemishes. Jeez. Why does this take so long!? It's a tedious art form, but I guess I never knew what I was getting myself into. In art school, my professor said I was a genius at cutting corners. I perfected the technique of making my drawings seem finished without really doing any work, at least if you looked at them from a distance... (My professor had pretty bad eyesight.) So it's a wonder how I ended up in this profession. (But then again, I always wanted to be a comic book artist.)

Well "Miracle Girls" will officially end with the upcoming Book 9. In the very last episode, as it appears in the magazine, it says that I created a total of 1473 pages. My editor counted all the pages, apparently. (It sure wasn't me!) I feel the exhaustion coming on. But I still have to do the cover for the Book 9, so please look forward to that!

OUR BIRTHDAYS...
I TOTALLY FORGOT
IT'S OUR 16TH!
THE SAME DAY AS MARIE'S AND EMMA'S...
FWUMP
THAT'S RIGHT
WE ALL HAVE IDENTICAL BIRTHDAYS

IT'S AS IF DIAMAS IS CALLING US...?
I WISH I COULD SEE INTO THE FUTURE...
IT'S AS EASY AS PUTTING OUR HANDS TOGETHER...
TONI...
WILL SOMETHING HAPPEN ON OUR BIRTHDAYS?!
WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE CHRIS.. RIGHT..?
OF COURSE!

IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO CHRIS, YOU'RE DEAD MARIE!! GOT THAT?
GRRRR
O, OKAY... CALM DOWN...
MARIE...!
FATHER!
whoosh
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
I HEAR YOU'RE FEELING BETTER..
OH MY..!

YOU SHOULDN'T BE WORKING!
DIDN'T THE DOCTOR TELL YOU NOT TO!?
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE EVERYTHING TO GENERAL GIAS..
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
I'M ALMOST 16, AND I'M READY TO TAKE OVER THE THRONE ANY DAY NOW.
BESIDES, I HAVE A SPECIAL BOYFRIEND NOW.
OH...
WELL... I SUPPOSE YOU'RE AT THAT AGE NOW
YES!
BUT FATHER, BECAUSE YOU HAVE YOUR HEALTH TO CONSIDER, I WANT TO THROW JUST A SMALL, PRIVATE PARTY.
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO HIM THEN
.. BUT MARIE...
YES, FATHER?

I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN...
...YOUR SISTER EMMA...
I STILL BELIEVE...
THAT SHE IS ALIVE SOMEWHERE
WHEN TWINS ARE BORN TO THE ROYAL FAMILY, IT IS TRADITION THAT THE TWINS ASSUME THE THRONE TOGETHER.
BUT FATHER...!
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF EMMA IS STILL ALIVE.
I WANT YOU AND EMMA TO INHERIT THE CROWN TOGETHER
!!
ONE HALF OF THE TWIN TIARAS ARE MISSING ALONG WITH EMMA..
THEY WERE CUT FROM THE SAME STONE.
MARIE..
THEY CANNOT EXIST APART...
SHUT UP
WHY FATHER WHY IS IT ALWAYS EMMA WHEN I'M THE ONE AT YOUR SIDE NOW?

CREAK
HOW PRETTY..! IS THIS MY TIARA?
THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER TIARA IT BELONGS TO THE OTHER QUEEN
YOU HAVE A YOUNGER SISTER
SISTER...?
YES.. YOUR TWIN SISTER.
YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU MEET HER.
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS NOW
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU

I'LL FIND HER!
I'LL SEARCH THE WHOLE WORLD!
I KNOW... I'LL FIND HER!
SHE'S MY SISTER!
YOUR HIGHNESS, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR STUDIES
NO! I WANT TO SEE MY FATHER!
WHY DO I HAVE TO ALWAYS DO THIS!?
THIS IS FOR YOUR FUTURE.
YOU HAVE A LOT OF STUDYING TO DO
FATHER!!
I WANT TO BE WITH MY FATHER!
PLEASE, THE DUKE IS ILL...

AFTER ALL, YOU ARE THE FUTURE QUEEN OF DIAMAS...
CLENCH
FLASH
I'VE ALWAYS MANAGED ON MY OWN
I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE, EMMA...!
I STILL BELIEVE ...

... THE TIARA...?
SO, THIS IS DIAMAS
I'M FINALLY HERE

I JUST HOPE YOU GIRLS AREN'T UP TO SOMETHING ARE YOU?
SOMETHING'S FISHY
GOING ON A TRIP IS FINE..
BYE, MOM!
HMMM
DON'T WORRY! SEE YA!
OH, C'MON, MOM.
WELL, THEN WE SHOULD GET BACK AS SOON AS WE CAN.
OH, MAN! MOM MIGHT BE ON TO US.
I GUESS SO...
OH I JUST THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS FOLLOWING ME
WHAT'S WRONG?
TONI! MIKA!
JACKSON!
SHIN!?
Rika, I'll be back soon. Please don't worry. I'll buy you a souvenir. Love, Shin
WHAT'S WRONG, JULIET?
A LETTER ..?
flap flap
Rika and Shinichiro Kageura
CAW!
CAW!

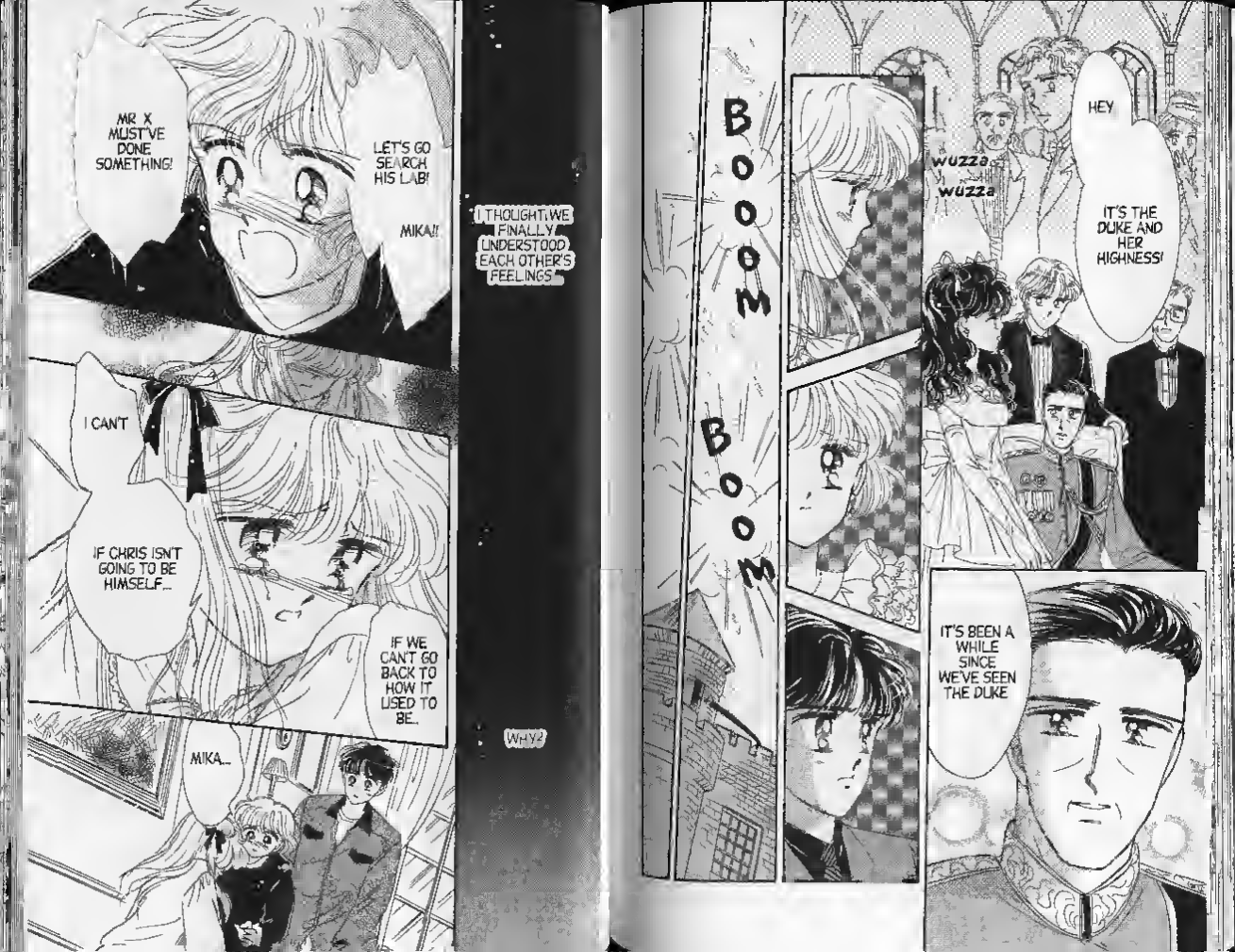
THERE IT IS
DIAMAS...!
OUR GUESTS FROM JAPAN SHOULD BE ARRIVING SOON
THIS TIME WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU OUT, CHRIS...
PLEASE WAIT FOR US!
THIS TIME I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET RID OF THEM FOR GOOD...!

HEY...
I'LL BE TAKING YOU TO THE CASTLE.
JAKE...!?
YOU CAN'T SEE HIM.
MR. X HAS TOTAL CONTROL OVER HIM.
WHAT!?
IS CHRIS... IS HE ALL RIGHT?
UH... UM...

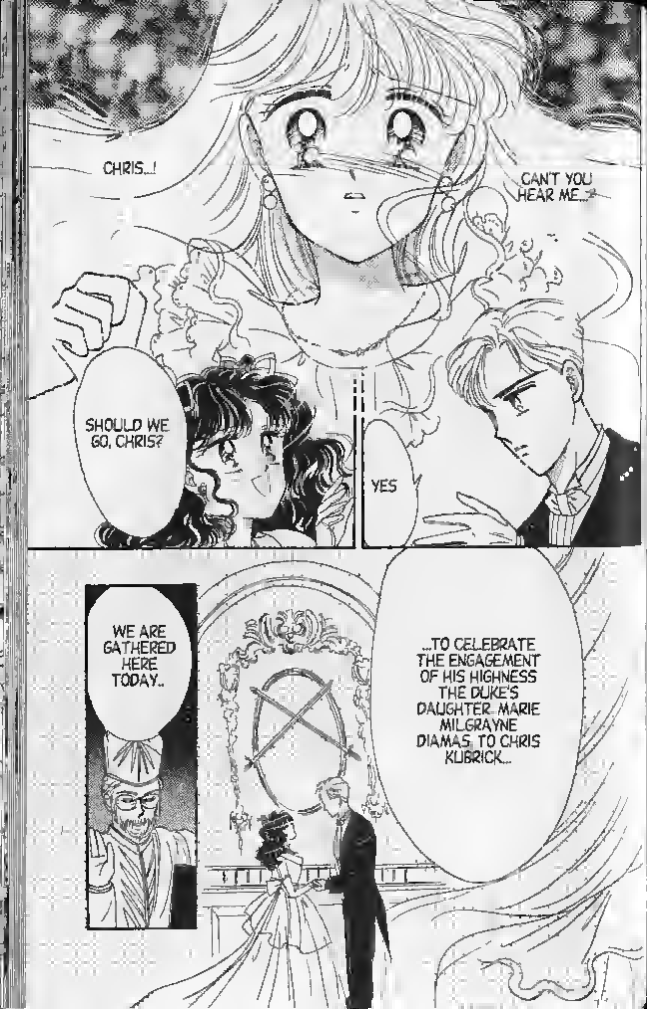
YOU CAN WAIT IN THIS ROOM.
PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME
W...WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
THIS IS GIVING ME THE CREEPS.
WHAT'S MR. X UP TO?
LET'S GO, TONI!
WE'LL FIND CHRIS BY TELEPORTING!
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE!
HEY, HANG ON!
OKAY!
FLASH
WE'RE GOING TO FIND CHRIS!
TELEPORT!
!!

CHRIS...!
YOU'RE OKAY!
THAT LETTER ISN'T FOR REAL, RIGHT...?
snap
CHRIS...?
I WASN'T KIDDING
I'M GETTING MARRIED
...TO MARIE
WHAT...?
CHRIS!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE UP?
IT'S TRUE. WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER

MARIE..
WELL, WELL... WELCOME MY FRIENDS
MR. X!?
YOU'LL RISK ANYTHING TO RESCUE CHRIS, EH?
CLAMP
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, YOU...!
HA HA HA...
TEMPER, TEMPER. THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY IS TOMORROW
SO WHY DON'T YOU REST UP UNTIL THEN?
HEY..
WAIT CHRIS!
TOMOR-ROW SHOULD BE FUN.
RIGHT, CHRIS?
SLAM
IT... CAN'T BE..
FWUMP
HOW CAN... THIS... BE..?


MR. X MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING!
LET'S GO SEARCH HIS LAB!
MIKA!!
I THOUGHT WE FINALLY UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS...
I CAN'T
IF CHRIS ISN'T GOING TO BE HIMSELF...
IF WE CAN'T GO BACK TO HOW IT USED TO BE...
MIKA...
WHY?
BOOOM BOOOM
wuzza wuzza
HEY
IT'S THE DUKE AND HER HIGHNESS!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE SEEN THE DUKE

FATHER, PLEASE DON'T OVEREXERT YOURSELF
DON'T WORRY ! FEEL GOOD TODAY
CHRIS ..!
WUZZ
HEY .. !
DARN IT! CAN'T WE DO ANYTHING?
HEY! WATCH OUT!
..!
MIKA!?
CHRIS!!
KLAK
KLAK


CHRIS...!
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME...?
SHOULD WE GO, CHRIS?
YES
WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY..
...TO CELEBRATE THE ENGAGEMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE DUKE'S DAUGHTER, MARIE MILGRAYNE DIAMAS, TO CHRIS KUBRICK...

DON'T DO IT, CHRIS!
...NO!!
PLEASE !!

SLAM
STOP IT, CHRIS!!
wuzza
wuzza
W...WHO'S THAT!?
wuzza
FLAP

EMMA!?
"YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU MEET HER."
"SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU"
EMMA !

"SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE QUEEN MARIE"
COULD SHE BE THE MISSING TWIN QUEEN!?

WUZZ
WUZZ
EMMA!
SO YOU WERE ALIVE ALL THIS TIME!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
FATHER

FATHER...?
EMMA...!
YOUR HIGHNESS... WE BROUGHT EMMA HERE.
wuzza
wuzza
WINSTON!?
wuzz
wuzz
HE WAS ONE OF THE GENERAL'S MEN.
HE WENT MISSING ALONG WITH EMMA SO THAT'S IT..
WHAT...!
THEY RAISED AND PROTECTED ME...
...FROM PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO HARM ME.
WHAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
YOUR HIGHNESS!
UNH...!
YOUR HIGHNESS!!
THUD
Oh-no!
GET THE DOCTOR!!
thump
FATHER!
FATHER! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
...
...EMMA...

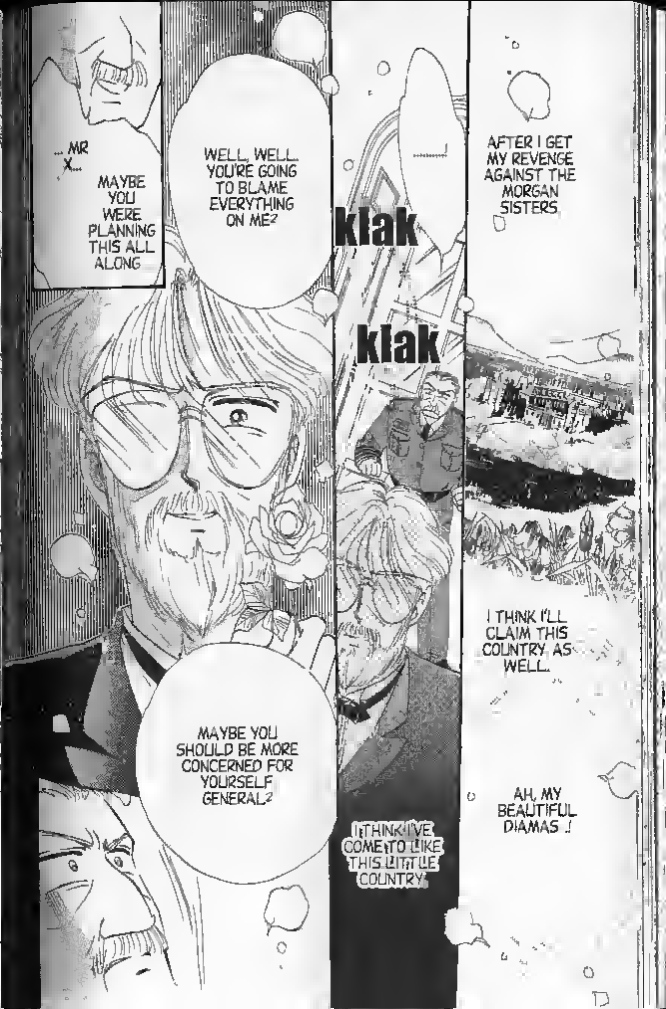
EMM... PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
I THOUGHT OF YOU... EVERY DAY...
THANK YOU FOR COMING BACK..
FATHER... IT'S MARIE
IT'S NOT EMMA..!
FATHER!!
YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE!
GET HIM TO HIS BED!
MARIE ..?

WHY DID YOU COME BACK!?
ARE YOU AFTER THE CROWN!?
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK HERE!
FATHER BELONGS TO ME! DIAMAS BELONGS TO ME!
MARIE! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
LISTEN TO ME..
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING!
WUZZa
MARIE....
SHE'S CRYING ..?

CHRIS!
BACK TO YOUR ROOM!
THIS PARTY IS OVER!
LET GO OF ME!
EVERYONE GET BACK! NOW!
Y, YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
EMMA! OVER HERE!
YES..
CHRIS!

wuzza
wuzza
YOUR HIGHNESS..
CHRIS!!

... WE'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE...!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE DUKE FINDS OUT THAT I WAS BEHIND EMMA'S DISAPPEARANCE 16 YEARS AGO!
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE DOUBLE-CROSSED BY YOUR OWN MAN
HOW AWFUL
Grrr
MR. X!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
HOW COULD WE NOT HAVE KNOWN THAT EMMA WAS BACK IN DIAMAS!?
WE COULD HAVE HAD HER KILLED BEFORE SHE MET WITH THE DUKE...
WHY WASN'T ANY OF THIS DONE!?
ARE YOU TRYING TO RUIN ME!?


... MR X...
MAYBE YOU WERE PLANNING THIS ALL ALONG
WELL, WELL. YOU'RE GOING TO BLAME EVERYTHING ON ME?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE MORE CONCERNED FOR YOURSELF, GENERAL.?
klak
klak
I THINK I'VE COME TO LIKE THIS LITTLE COUNTRY.
AFTER I GET MY REVENGE AGAINST THE MORGAN SISTERS
I THINK I'LL CLAIM THIS COUNTRY AS WELL.
AH, MY BEAUTIFUL DIAMAS.!

I CAN'T BELIEVE EMMA WAS ALIVE ALL THIS TIME!
THE DUKE MUST HAVE BEEN SO WORRIED
THERE'S NO WAY MARIE CAN RUN THIS COUNTRY BY HERSELF
I MEAN, SHE'S SO SPOILED
(AND HYSTERICAL TO BOOT!)
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? GET BACK TO WORK!
I'M SORRY SIR!
MY GOODNESS
CLATTER
CLATTER

KLAK
whoosh
whoosh

STRANGE...
SEEING DIAMAS LIKE THIS.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT, YET IT SEEMS SO FAMILIAR...
THE TRUE DIAMAS IS SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN IT IS NOW...
YOU CAME BACK TO RESTORE OUR COUNTRY WITH QUEEN MARIE,
DIDN'T YOU?

knock knock
TONI MIKA,
JACKSON.
CAN I COME IN?
EMMA...!
HELLO!
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT WE WOULD EVER MEET AGAIN? AND LIKE THIS?
FATHER IS SLEEPING NOW.
HIS CONDITION HAS STABILIZED.
THAT'S GOOD...
AND MARIE ..?
NO...
SHE'S LOCKED HERSELF IN HER ROOM..
AND REFUSES TO SEE ME.

I'M TIRED OF RUNNING AWAY.
THAT'S WHY I RETURNED TO DIAMAS
BUT NOW I'VE TORMENTED MARIE EVEN MORE.
THIS IS THE WORST BIRTHDAY ...
TODAY IS MARIE AND IS BIRTH-DAY
EMMA ...!
I'LL GET CHRIS BACK FOR YOU.
I PROMISE TO FIND HIM SAFE.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU JEOPARDIZE YOURSELVES FOR MY SAKE ANYMORE...!
LET US HELP YOU!!
BAM
WHAT!?

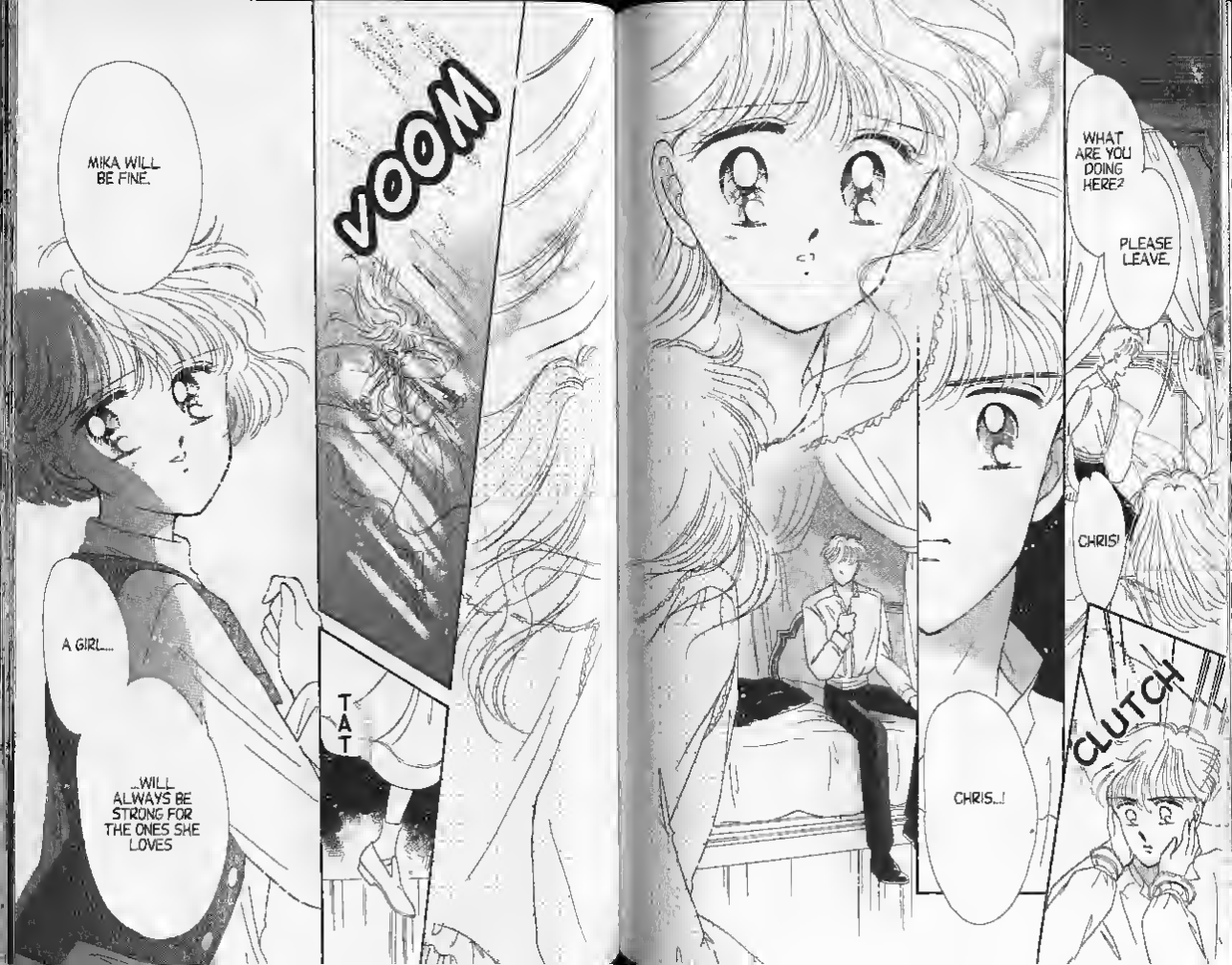
IF THIS CONTINUES... IF MARIE CONTINUES TO HATE YOU, DIAMAS WILL BE RUINED...
YOU HAVE TO MAKE HER OPEN UP TO YOU
DID YOU FORGET?
WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS
WE'LL DO ANYTHING TO HELP!!
ME, TOO! WE CAME THIS FAR. WE HAVE TO FINISH IT!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!

...THANK YOU...!
YOUR HIGHNESS.. WE SHOULD GO SEE YOUR FATHER. HIS HEALTH IS A PRIORITY NOW
YES.
EMMA
WE ALSO TURNED 16 TODAY.
WE CAN'T CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY YET.
BUT...
LET'S DO OUR BEST!

IF WE ALL CAN WORK TOGETHER
I KNOW WE CAN BE HAPPY
I HATE HER. I HATE EMMA..
I WISH SHE WOULD JUST DISAPPEAR..!
THEN WE SHOULD KILL HER.
MR. X...?
YOU LOOK AWFUL..! YOU'VE BEEN CRYING
COME, WIPE YOUR TEARS
IF SHE CAN TELL US WHERE THE TIARA IS, THEN WE DON'T NEED HER ANYMORE.
RIGHT?
YOU ARE THE ONLY QUEEN OF DIAMAS !
YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO SEE CHRIS...
BY YOURSELF!?
YES

I HAVE TO SAVE CHRIS.
PLEASE.
TONI...
HE ALWAYS PROTECTED ME.
I LOVE HIM.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO RESCUE HIM...!
CLUTCH
TONI!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL COME BACK WITH CHRIS
PRO MISE ME!

YES!
LET'S GO FIND CHRIS!!
H, HEY, TONI!
ARE YOU LETTING HER GO BY HERSELF ?


MIKA WILL BE FINE.
A GIRL...
...WILL ALWAYS BE STRONG FOR THE ONES SHE LOVES
VOOM
TAT
CHRIS...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
PLEASE LEAVE.
CHRIS!
CLUTCH

LOOK AT ME.
I CAN'T GO ON WITHOUT YOU
PLEASE, LET HIM HEAR MY HEART.
COME BACK TO ME..!
PLEASE CHRIS..!
.....!?
twinge

CHRIS!?
WHAT AM I..?
CHRIS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
AGH..
SLAM
WHO'S THERE!?
throb
throb
K-L-I-K
GET AWAY FROM HIM!
OR WE'LL SHOOT!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME..!?
NHH..
throb

BLAM
TONI?
WHAT THE...
WE HAVE TO NOTIFY MR. X!
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp

clank
THIS WATCH...!
"THIS IS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME"
I GAVE IT THIS TO HER WHEN I LEFT FOR LONDON...
"I'LL ALWAYS TREASURE IT"
M...
MIKA...!?
MIKA!!
MIKA!!

STIR
THE BULLET MUST HAVE HIT THE WATCH ..?
... CHRIS..?
OH, GOOD..
YOU'RE BACK, CHRIS...

I'M SORRY...
I PUT YOU THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN!
DON'T SAY ANYMORE!
JUST DON'T LET GO...
klak
NEVER LET ME GO...!

IMPRESSIVE. YOU WERE ABLE TO DE-HYPNOTIZE CHRIS.
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR LITTLE LOVE SCENE,
BUT YOU'RE COMING WITH ME NOW
TONI...!
.....!
TONI!!
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MIKA!?

MR X HAS CAPTURED THEM BOTH!
WE HAVE TO RESCUE THEM!
WHAT..!!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!?
YES!!
LET'S GO!
MARIE WANTS TO SEE ME?
ARE YOU SURE...?
WHAT...!?
YES SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY
BUT... I'M NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THIS ROOM.

DON'T WORRY. WE WILL NOTIFY THE PROPER PEOPLE.
PLEASE, WE MUST GO..!
YOUR HIGHNESS!?
YOUR HIGHNESS!
JAKE! SHE ISN'T HERE!
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED!?
OH NO...!

SLAM
JAKE!
BUTLER!
WHERE ARE YOU!?
UM.. WEREN'T THEY WITH HER HIGHNESS, EMMA..?
WHAT!?
EVERYONE IS GOING TO EMMA.
THEY'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
NO!!
GRIP
EMMA..!

YOU TRICKED ME!
KLANK
KLANK
KLANK
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
SOMEBODY...!
KLANK
KLANK
SO, YOU'VE GOT EMMA.
EXCELLENT.
WELL,
THINGS ARE GETTING INTERESTING NOW.
CREAK
REVENGE SHOULD BE FUN.
DON'T YOU AGREE, MIKA AND CHRIS?

TONI AND JACKSON WILL BE HERE SOON!
AND THEN THEY'LL KICK YOUR BUTT!!
SOUNDS COURAGEOUS.
BUT WILL IT WORK OUT THAT WAY?
HEH HEH
YOU CAN'T BREAK OUT OF THAT GLASS CASE.
I SPECIALLY DESIGNED IT.
GRRR

TONI!
AH
buckle
TONI!
I'M ALL RIGHT
HUFF HUFF
MIKA'S CALLING US
HUFF HUFF
WE HAVE TO HURRY...!
PLEASE HURRY...!!
TONI!
KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK
THIS WAY!
DASH
OKAY!
I'VE GOTTA SAY...
...YOU AND MIKA ARE AMAZING
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY SPECIAL..
AFTER ALL...
WE'RE TWINS
!!
MARIE...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
YOU CAN'T WANDER AROUND WITHOUT PERMISSION!

MR. X HAS CAPTURED MIKA AND CHRIS!
WHAT...!?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE... CHRIS WOULD NEVER BETRAY ME
MARIE!! WAKE UP!
MR. X IS JUST USING YOU! MIKA IS IN DANGER!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
STOMP STOMP
YOU TWO ARE SO ANNOYING!
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR SISTER IS IN THIS CASTLE!?
I DO!
I ALWAYS KNOW WHERE SHE IS!
MIKA AND I ARE SOULMATES!
WE'RE TWINS,
AND I KNOW HER BET-TER THAN ANYBODY!
AND THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO SAVE HER!!
DASH
Pow
AGH!
crack
TONI, LET'S GO!!

YOUR HIGHNESS!
DON'T YOU WANT US TO CATCH THEM!?
YOUR HIGHNESS 2
"WE'RE TWINS..."
THAT'S STUPID.
TWINS...
SO WHAT IF WE LOOK ALIKE...
"SHE AND I ARE SOULMATES...!"
TO BE CONTINUED...

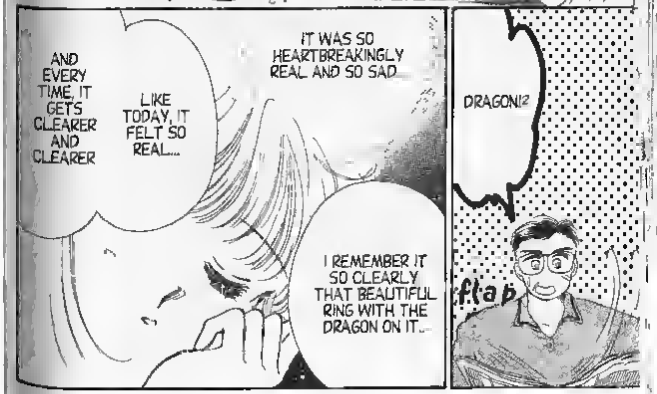
Welcome to
Dragon Castle

DON'T CRY!
WE'LL PROBABLY NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...
FAREWELL...
HOLD ON TO THIS RING...
NO MATTER IF WE'RE APART
I LOVE YOU
ALWAYS, FOREVER...
SNAP
YUMI, GET UP!
OKAY!
IT WAS A DREAM...

Welcome to Dragon Castle

My memories of writing this story? I DIDN'T MAKE MY DEADLINE! I was drawing 3 color pages, but I hadn't even finished the entire story yet (Color pages are due earlier than b/w pages. But I missed that deadline, too!) It was really crazy. Usually, in these cases, the editors don't let you go home or even sleep until the work is done. Because I had a lot of pages to finish, they told me to take it home. But since I didn't have a fax or copy machine at the time, I had to walk 20 minutes to the nearest office store. My editor told me, "I don't care what it is! Just put some words and pictures in it!" Whattaya want me to do? But it was my fault I was in that predicament to begin with, so...

I know it's an excuse, but I was really in a pickle since I didn't have enough pages! So this ended up being the first time my editors came to my house to collect my pages. It was in the middle of the night, so my family was pretty annoyed. This is about the time when I established my speed record for drawing. When I started "Miracle Girls" some time after, I had to pick up the pace even more, so now I don't even know what's going on anymore. (But after everything, this project is probably my prize.)



flutter
WHAT!? DAD, DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING!?
DRAGON... LET'S SEE...
DOES THAT RING HAVE A BRILLIANT STONE IN THE MIDDLE, SURROUNDED BY...
...TWO DRAGONS!!
"I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A KID, I FOUND A RING LIKE THAT IN THE ATTIC"
rustle
"OUR FAMILY WAS IN THE IMPORTING BUSINESS,"
CLATTER CLATTER
"I DON'T BELIEVE IT!"
"SO MAYBE SOMEBODY BROUGHT IT FROM OVERSEAS"
"THAT RING ACTUALLY EXISTS!"
PLING
FOUND IT!

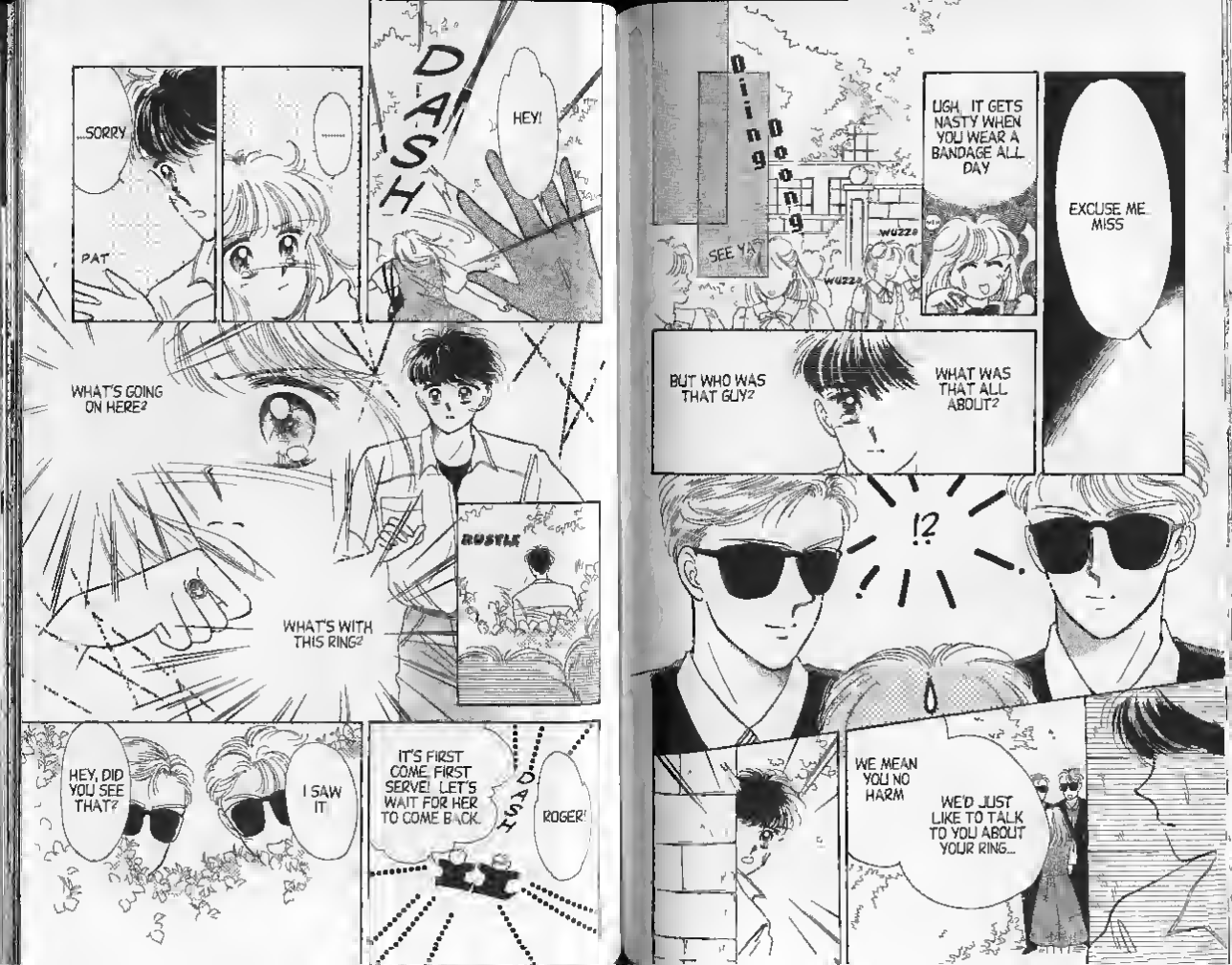
SO, YOU'VE GOT THAT RING... IT'S BEEN SO LONG
WOW, IT'S AN ANTIQUE AND YOU FOUND IT IN THIS HOUSE?
CAN I KEEP THIS? I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT
YEAH, SURE.
YAYY!
HM? THERE'S SOME WRITING ENGRAVED HERE...
Macaulay
MA..CAU..LY..?
WHAT'S THIS, SOMEBODY'S NAME?
OH, IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL...
I THINK I'LL PUT IT ON.
IT'S SO STRANGE AND WONDERFUL...
THAT RING FROM MY DREAM IS RIGHT HERE ON MY FINGER.
"I LOVE YOU"
"ALWAYS, FOREVER"

I HOPE SOMEBODY SAYS THAT TO ME SOMEDAY...
HM?
NHHH
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH, NO
I CAN'T GET IT OFF!
IT WON'T COME OFF!
I CAN'T GET IT OFF!
YOU STILL CAN'T FIND THE DRAGON RING!?
I, I'M SORRY MISS VICTORIA
WHAT DO YOU THINK I SENT YOU TO JAPAN FOR!? YOU'D BETTER FIND IT— I DON'T CARE IF YOU DIE TRYING!
TELEPHONE
UH, I CAN'T FIND IT IF I'M DEAD...
SILENCE!

GREY HAS GONE TO JAPAN, TOO. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DAWDLE.
WE HAVE TO FIND THE RING BEFORE HE DOES!
WE ALREADY KNOW THAT IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THAT TOWN!
UNDERSTAND! YOU FIND THAT RING!
click
BYE MOM!
I TRIED EVERYTHING LAST NIGHT TO GET THIS RING OFF, BUT NOTHING WORKED
AND I DON'T WANT TO BREAK IT
RUSTLE
I BETTER WRAP A BANDAGE AROUND IT!
I MIGHT GET INTO TROUBLE IF THE TEACHERS SEE IT
YOU, THERE!

WHA..
grab
CAN I SEE THAT RING?
WHAT...?

WAIT A MINUTE...
I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE
I KNOW I HAVE.. BUT WHERE..?
GIVE IT BACK...
HUH?
I NEED THIS RING BACK!
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR IT!
HOLD ON A MINUTE. I MEAN, WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..?
I'M IN A HURRY! JUST GIVE IT BACK!
OUCH!


...SORRY
PAT
DASH
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
RUSTLE
WHAT'S WITH THIS RING?
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT?
I SAW IT
IT'S FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE! LET'S WAIT FOR HER TO COME BACK.
POST
ROGER!
Ding Dong
SEE YA
WUZZ
WUZZ
UGH... IT GETS NASTY WHEN YOU WEAR A BANDAGE ALL DAY
EXCUSE ME, MISS
BUT WHO WAS THAT GUY?
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
!?
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM
WE'D JUST LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT YOUR RING...

ENGLAND? COUNT MACAULY??

I TOLD YOU, I CAN'T GET IT OFF...
HUFF HUFF
WHAT DO WE DO?
HMM.
HUFF HUFF
WE HAVE NO CHOICE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BRING THE RING BACK THE SECOND WE FIND IT
HUH?
MISS YUMI! WE'RE TAKING YOU WITH US, RING AND ALL!
WHAAAT!?
BUT, I HAVE SCHOOL...
DON'T WORRY ONCE WE GET IT OFF, YOU CAN GO HOME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
OKAY, MR. AND MRS SAITO?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
IT MUST BE NICE TO GET A FREE TRIP TO ENGLAND...
DRAG
UH, COME HOME SOON.
MUMBLE
THIS IS CRAZY!!

WE'VE ALREADY NOTIFIED EVERYONE OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
WE'LL HAVE A CELEBRATION FOR YOU.
...BUT... HOW MANY MORE HOURS DO WE HAVE TO WALK...?
huff huff
THE CASTLE IS JUST PAST THESE WOODS.
THIS IS GETTING OUT OF CONTROL.
CASTLE!? IS THAT WHERE YOU LIVE!?
OF COURSE THEY ARE ARISTOCRATS, AFTER ALL.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW...?
.....
OH, THERE IT IS. SEE IT?

WELCOME TO DRAGON CASTLE.
WOW....
AMAZING... IT'S JUST LIKE A FAIRY TALE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A REAL CASTLE BEFORE!

AH, MISS VICTORIA.
YOU'RE LATE. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU
WOW SHE'S PRETTY...
STARE
HMMM.
TEE HEE
SO, YOU'RE THE FINGER THAT CAME WITH THE RING
grrr

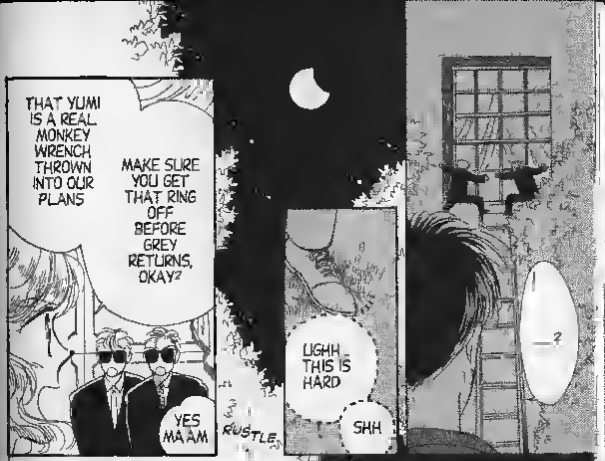
HELLO I'M YUMI SAITO...
WHO'S THIS WENCH?
I'M VICTORIA MACAULY. MY FATHER IS THE COUNT'S YOUNGER BROTHER
ALTHOUGH THE COUNT AND COUNTESS HAVE BEEN DEAD SEVERAL YEARS
COME THIS WAY. I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.
BY THE WAY, IN EUROPE, SCHOOLS ARE ON SUMMER BREAK IN JUNE.
THEY DIED...?
THEY DIED IN AN ACCIDENT, SO RIGHT NOW MY PARENTS ARE OVERSEEING THE CASTLE.
!!
SO JUST THE THREE OF YOU LIVE IN THIS BIG PALACE?
BONG
A CLOCK TOWER...
OH, THAT IT'S VERY OLD. SO HARDLY ANYONE STEPS FOOT IN THERE ANYMORE.
BONG
BONG
...NO, THERE'S ONE MORE...
HUH? OH...
HEY
THE DRAGON EMBLEM... JUST LIKE THE RING...
YUMI, YOU REALLY CAN'T GET THAT RING OFF?
WE'RE IN A HURRY. WE NEED THAT RING
WHAT?
OWWW! IF I COULD GET IT OFF, I WOULDN'T COME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE!
COME, COME, VICTORIA.
FATHER, MOTHER...
THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT OUR GUEST.
A LADY SHOULD BE MORE PROPER
WE FOUND THE RING. SO WE'RE JUST ONE STEP AWAY FROM THE TREASURE.
IF WE MESS AROUND, GREY WILL GET TO IT FIRST!
TREASURE? GREY? WHAT'S GOING ON?
UM...
!!

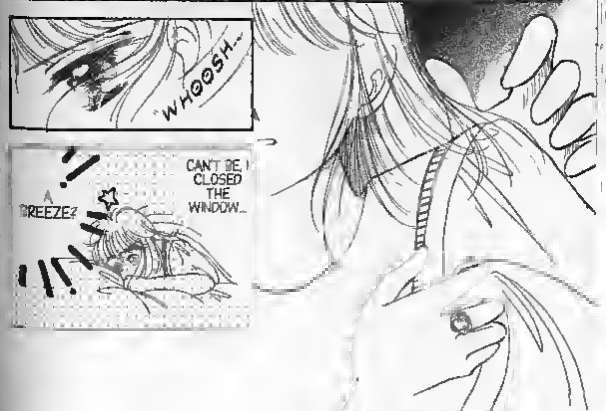
WHAT'S GOING ON?

THEY'RE SO EXCITED OVER THE RING...

WHO WAS THAT BOY?

AND WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS RING...?





THUD
HUH!?
EIIYAAAHHHH
THUNK
WHOA!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT CAME FROM YUMI'S ROOM.
STOMP
STOMP
HEY!

flick
WHA...? ARE YOU TRYING TO ROB ME!?
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
I DON'T BELIEVE IT YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY AFTER ME!?
GREY!!
YUMI! WHAT HAPPENED!?
SLAM
WHAT?
Y...YOU'RE GREY?
YOU'RE A FOREIGNER?
I'M NOT A THIEF!

WHAAAAT!?
I'M GREY MACAULY I'M THE ONLY SON OF THE COUNT AND COUNTESS MACAULY.
MY MOTHER WAS JAPANESE.
UGHHH..
OWWW!
HEY! YOU'RE VICTORIA'S MEN!
AND YOU WEAR YOUR SUNGLASSES AT NIGHT?
THOSE TWO WERE TRYING TO SNEAK INTO YOUR ROOM, SO I FOLLOWED THEM.
WHAT?
CREEP CREEP
VICTORIA! WHAT'S GOING ON!?
OH, MY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HA HA HA HA
YOU CAN'T FOOL US!

I'M NOT GIVING UP! YOU'LL SEE!
I'LL GET THAT RING OFF!
THE TREASURE IS MINE!
VICTORIA! WAIT FOR US!!
SLAM
WAIT FOR US TOO!
stomp stomp
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY ARE YOU TWO SEARCHING FOR THE RING SEPARATELY?
AND WHAT'S THIS TREASURE ABOUT?
WHY DOES EVERYONE WANT THIS RING?
IN THIS HOUSEHOLD IT'S BEEN SAID THAT THE DRAGON RING HOLDS THE KEY TO THE MACAULY TREASURE.

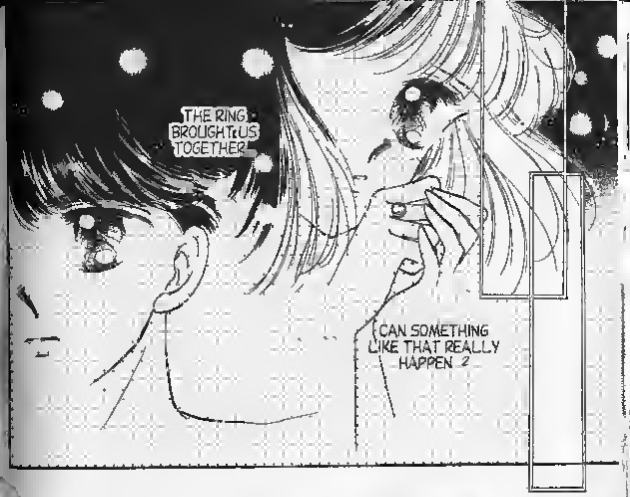
KEYS TO TREASURE!?
VICTORIA NEEDS THE RING TO FIND THE TREASURE THAT'S WHY SHE'S SO DESPERATE.
WHY CAN'T YOU SEARCH FOR IT TOGETHER?
SHE DOESN'T WANT ANY HELP.
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS RING COULD...
YUMI, DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT RING WAS AT YOUR HOUSE?
HUH? HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
SORRY, BUT WE'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING FOR SEVERAL GENERATIONS
WOW...
I HEARD THAT ONE OF MY ANCESTORS LIVING ABROAD BROUGHT IT BACK...
COME HERE. I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING

WHAT?
THIS PICTURE...?
IT'S THE COUPLE FROM MY DREAM!
THAT GIRL IS ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS. IT WAS TAKEN WHEN SHE WAS 14.
AND NEXT TO HER IS ONE OF MY ANCESTORS THE COUNT MACAULY WHEN HE WAS 16.
WHAT...!?
YOU SAID YOUR ANCESTORS LIVED ABROAD, RIGHT?
WELL... THEY LIVED RIGHT NEXT TO THIS CASTLE.
AND THEN THEY FELL IN LOVE...

BUT THAT GIRL HAD TO RETURN TO JAPAN
TIMES BEING WHAT THEY WERE, THEY PROBABLY NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO MARRY...
WHEN THEY PARTED, THE COUNT GAVE HER THE FAMILY HEIRLOOM. THE RING
IT'S JUST LIKE MY DREAM..!
SINCE THAT TIME, THE MACAULY FAMILY HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR THAT GIRL. AND FINALLY WE LOCATED HER DESCENDANTS
AND THAT'S US?
YES
THE DREAM! WHAT A ROMANTIC STORY! IT WAS ABOUT MY RELATIVES!

I'M SORRY
HUH?
WHAT FOR..?
FOR GETTING YOU INVOLVED IN THIS
OH, WELL..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THIS RING WOULD GET STUCK.
THAT'S TRUE. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SEE YOU AGAIN LIKE THIS
TEE HEE
IT'S AS IF..
..THE RING BROUGHT US TOGETHER..
OH MY
HE HAS SUCH BEAUTIFUL EYES..

I'M SORRY I CALLED YOU A THIEF...
I THOUGHT I HAD SEEN YOU BEFORE. YOU LOOK JUST LIKE THE COUNT MACAULY IN MY DREAM...
DREAM?
FOR SOME TIME NOW, I'VE BEEN SEEING THE SAME DREAM ABOUT THOSE TWO..
AND THAT'S HOW I FOUND THIS RING
..AND EVERY YEAR THE DREAM GETS CLEARER.
I TURNED 14 THIS YEAR.. THE SAME AGE AS MY RELATIVE
THAT'S UNBELIEV-ABLE CAN THAT REALLY HAPPEN..?
HUH?
I'M 16 THIS YEAR SAME AS MY ANCESTOR.
UH, GOOD-NIGHT!


THE RING BROUGHT US TOGETHER
CAN SOMETHING LIKE THAT REALLY HAPPEN ?

YAWN
GOOD MORNING, YUMI
VICTORIA!
I'M SORRY FOR THE RUCKUS YESTERDAY.
SMILE
I THOUGHT ABOUT WAYS TO GET THE RING OFF.
AND I WON'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER.

It was tough banging this story out, but my research trip to Scotland was a blast! (It was winter and freezing cold, though.) When people think of castles, the ones in Germany or France probably come to mind. But personally I like the English palaces. I would've had a hellish time thoroughly researching the authentic castles of the middle ages (although I enjoy that sort of thing). So I drew castles of all different nationalities. Maybe I'm just being lazy.

Come to think of it, Victoria looks just like Marie, doesn't she? If you're wondering why Yumi's hair isn't black (she's Japanese, after all), I'll tell ya. My main character from my previous serial, "P Natsu Dori," Chinatsu, had black hair. It's not because I didn't have time to ink in her hair.. Okay, so it's a little odd..

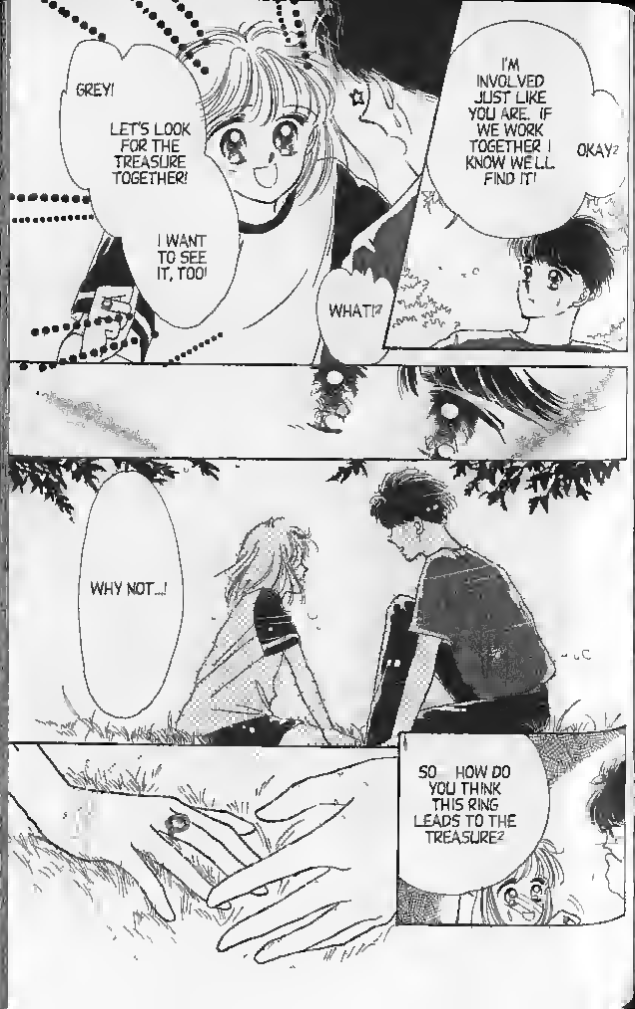
So now "Miracle Girls" is down to one last book. In addition to the ending to Part 3, I put together another speed-drawing wonder of a special bonus story. So don't miss it!

So, I'll see you in Book 9!!

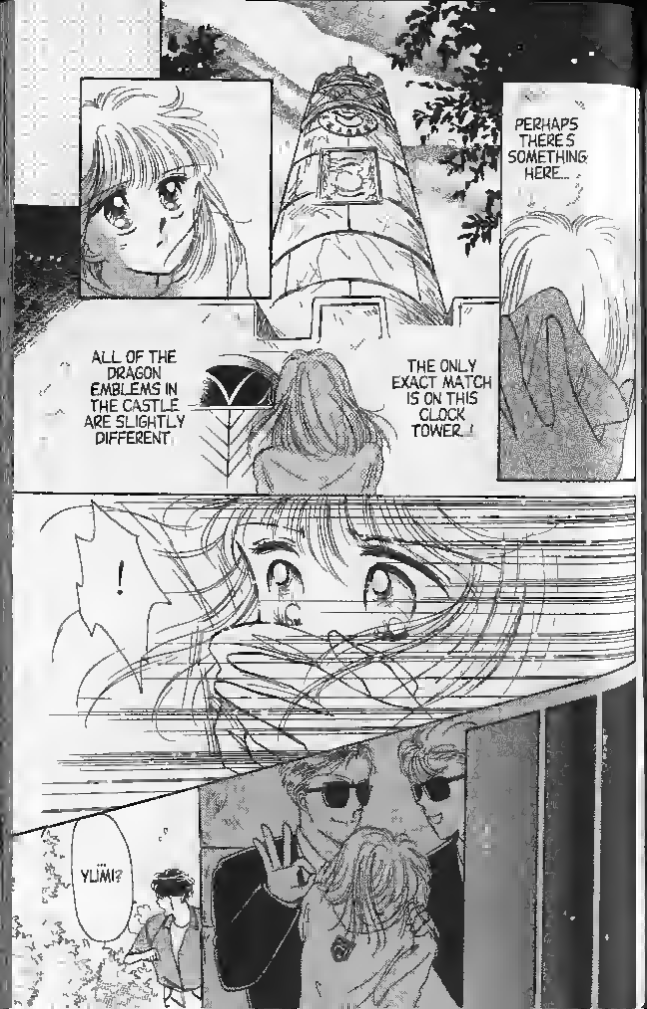
February 1994, Nami Akimoto

WHAT, ARE YOU TRYING TO STEAL THE RING?
KNOCK IT OFF! LOOK AT YUMI'S HANDS!
throb throb
THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME...
VICTORIA JUST GOES TOO FAR.
DAMN IT!
YOU AREN'T TRYING TOO HARD TO GET THE RING OFF
IF IT WON'T COME OFF, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THE TREASURE?
DO YOU WANT THE TREASURE?
IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TREASURE FOR MYSELF
BUT THE MACAULY TREASURE IS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME.

SINCE THE RING DISAPPEARED THE MACAULY FAMILY HAS BEEN SEARCHING FOR IT
MY FATHER TOO...
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD I WAS TOLD ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF THE TREASURE, AND THE LOVE BETWEEN OUR RELATIVES
HIS EYES, THEY'RE SPARKLING...
I WANT TO FIND THE TREASURE SINCE MY FATHER NEVER COULD...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT CAN BE, THOUGH...
THE REASON THE MACAULY FAMILY IS SO INVOLVED IN JAPAN IS BECAUSE OF YOUR ANCESTORS
AND I'M HALF JAPANESE
YOUR ANCESTOR MUST HAVE REALLY LOVED HER, FOR HIM TO GIVE UP SUCH A PRECIOUS HEIRLOOM.
WHAT'S THE SECRET INSIDE THIS RING...?


GREY!
LET'S LOOK FOR THE TREASURE TOGETHER!
I WANT TO SEE IT, TOO!
I'M INVOLVED JUST LIKE YOU ARE. IF WE WORK TOGETHER I KNOW WE'LL FIND IT!
OKAY?
WHAT!?
WHY NOT...!
SO... HOW DO YOU THINK THIS RING LEADS TO THE TREASURE?

THESE DRAGONS THEY'RE JUST LIKE THE ONES ON THE CLOCK TOWER.
BUT THERE ARE DRAGON EMBLEMS ALL OVER THIS CASTLE.
LET'S LOOK INSIDE THE CASTLE!
YUMI AND GREY ARE GONE AGAIN? WHERE COULD THEY BE?
WHAT!?
OKAY! SINCE WE HAVE THE RING MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME CLUES!
IT SEEMS THEY'RE WANDERING AROUND THE CASTLE...


PERHAPS THERE'S SOMETHING HERE...
ALL OF THE DRAGON EMBLEMS IN THE CASTLE ARE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT
THE ONLY EXACT MATCH IS ON THIS CLOCK TOWER...!
!
YUMI?

ARE WE AWAKE?
HM...
VICTORIA!!
WE'RE AT THE TOP OF THE CLOCK TOWER.
CLANK
LET ME OUT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
I WANT THE RING OF COURSE.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU LOOK FOR THE TREASURE WITH GREY.
WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STARVE YOU UNTIL THE RING SLIPS OFF
STARVE...!
THIS PLAN WON'T FAIL.
I'LL CHECK ON YOU FROM TIME TO TIME. BYE.

HEY! VICTORIA!!
MAKE SURE YOU LOCK THE ENTRANCE!
YES MA'AM!
clank clank
BUT IT'S SUCH A CREEPY PLACE, ISN'T IT? THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN UP TO THE TOP
ME, TOO

WHAT IS THIS ROOM...!
I CAN'T STAND IT!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
grab grab
HELP!
GREY!
bang bang

VICTORIA!!
WHERE DID YOU TAKE YUMI!?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YEL!...
HEE HEE
BUT! I DON'T LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE. SO I'M NOT TELLING!
AH, I LOVE BEING THE WENCH

STOMP
FINE!
I'LL FIND HER MYSELF
UH, MISS VICTORIA...?

BAM
BAM
IT'S NO USE..
SLUMP
I'M SO HUNGRY
I'M GETTING DIZZY THE RING IS SPINNING.. HM?
IT CAME OFF!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
THERE'S AN OPENING IN THE WALL?
IS THAT A DOOR?
bam bam
CLATTER CLATTER
IT'S LOCKED, OF COURSE...
HEY
THIS KEYHOLE IS THE SAME DRAGON AS MY RING?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING GOES IN IT
THIS PLACE IS SO OLD
CREAK
IT'S OPEN

BUT WHAT...
THE RING
Klak Klak
snap
CLICK
HOW ARE YOU?
V, VICTORIA...
OH! IT CAME OFF ALREADY
THAT WAS QUICK
HEY!
THEN THIS IS YOUR REWARD EAT UP
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
NOT YET WAIT JUST A LITTLE LONGER WHILE I LOOK FOR THE TREASURE.
HEE HEE
OH, NO..

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
brr
WH...T AM I GOING TO DO...
WHAT CAN I DO...
GREY
GREY
GREY
GREY...!
clank

GREY...
GET BACK! I'M GOING TO BREAK THIS WINDOW!
CRASH
CLINK
AH...

GREY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
YES..
I'M SORRY, VICTORIA GOT THE RING..
I THOUGHT I FOUND WHERE THE TREASURE WAS...
WHAT...
COME THIS WAY!

LOOK, THE LOCK ON THIS DOOR IS THE SAME SHAPE AS THE RING
A HIDDEN DOOR... I'VE NEVER SEEN A LOCK LIKE THIS
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A HALLWAY BEHIND HERE.
KNOCK!
I DON'T THINK VICTORIA KNOWS ABOUT THIS.
SHE NEVER EVEN NOTICED!
—
ALL RIGHT! THEN LET'S GET THE RING BACK!
whoosh
BING
OKAY!
ARE YOU SCARED?
NOT AT ALL!

I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE.
I HAVE YOU NOW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!?
WE'VE GOT THE RING!
BUT NOW WE CAN'T FIND WHERE THE TREASURE IS!?
ISN'T THERE SOME SORT OF SECRET CODE OR SOMETHING!?
BUT MISS VICTORIA, THERE AREN'T ANY HIDDEN COMPARTMENTS OR ANYTHING ON THIS RING.

SLAM
AGHH!
CLINK
SWIPE
HEY!
YUMI! GREY!!
WE'RE TAKING THE RING BACK!

HEY! COME BACK HERE!!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!? AFTER THEM!
WHAT?
YOU TOO! MOM! DAD!
!?
THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE CLOCK TOWER!
DON'T TELL ME THE TREASURE IS IN THERE...
HUFF
HUFF

CLANK
IT'S A STAIRWAY LEADING DOWNSTAIRS!
I KNEW IT! A PERFECT FIT!
M, MISS VICTORIA...!
YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T MAKE IT
THE TREASURE IS RIGHT THERE! DON'T STOP NOW!
THERE'S THE EXIT!
CLICK
HOW FAR DOWN IS IT?
HEY!

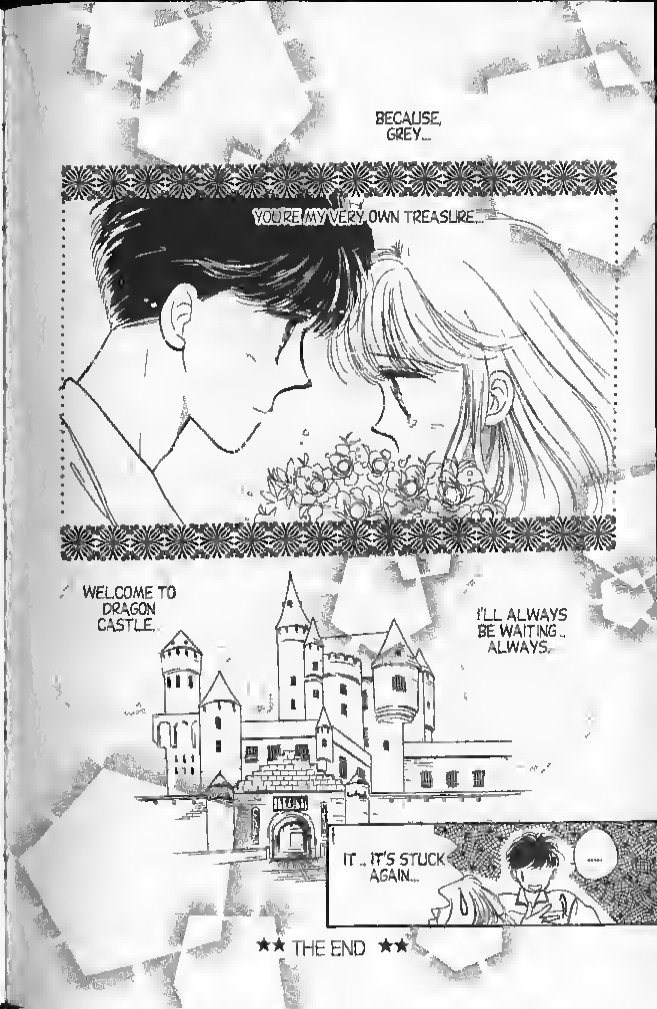
flash
FLOWERS...
FLOWERS EVERYWHERE...!
...IS THIS... THE TREASURE...?
THEY'RE GLITTERING LIKE JEWELS...

EVERYTHING IS JUST LIKE MY DREAM..
BEAUTIFUL..
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.. THIS GARDEN WAS INSIDE THE CASTLE ALL THIS TIME
BUT THERE'S NOBODY TO TAKE CARE OF IT?
IT MUST HAVE REMAINED SEALED EVER SINCE THE RING ENDED UP IN JAPAN...
... THIS WAS THE PLACE... THIS WAS THE PLACE IN MY DREAMS..
WHERE THOSE TWO MET...
SEE...
THEY WANTED YOU TO FIND THIS GARDEN FOR THEM.
I GUESS IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO KEEP THIS A SECRET

!!
THE..THE TREASURE.
VICTORIA!
HUFF
HUFF
WHERE.. WHERE'S THE TREASURE.!
THIS IS IT! THE GARDEN!
WHAT..!?
YOU MEAN, IT'S NOT GOLD AND SILVER..?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
IT CAN'T BE...
LOOK!
IT'S SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY JEWEL!
LOOK..
HMPH
THEIR LOVE IS STILL ALIVE
THAT'S WHY THESE FLOWERS HAVEN'T WILTED

"EVEN IF WE'RE APART,"
"I LOVE YOU"
"ALWAYS, FOREVER"
I GOT YOU INTO A LOT OF TROUBLE HERE.
EVERYONE IN JAPAN MUST BE WORRIED
YEAH...
I'D BETTER GET HOME.
I HAVE SO MANY STORIES TO TELL EVERYONE!
SO, YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP THE GARDEN OPEN TO EVERYONE?
YEAH. I THINK THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE.
I STILL THINK WE SHOULD CHARGE ADMISSION
IT'S TIME TO GO
...GREY...
I WISH I WAS STILL IN THAT DREAM...
CAN I...
CAN I... SEE YOU, AGAIN...?
...
I DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE.
AFTER ALL, I FOUND MY OWN TREASURE

OF COURSE
I'LL ALWAYS WAIT FOR YOU
THAT'S A PROMISE.
WE DON'T HAVE TO BE APART LIKE OUR ANCESTORS
AND NEXT TIME YOU VISIT I'LL PICK YOU UP!
OKAY...
SMILE
OKAY..!
WE HAVE TO GROW OUR LOVE, RIGHT?


BECAUSE, GREY...
YOU'RE MY VERY OWN TREASURE...
WELCOME TO DRAGON CASTLE.
I'LL ALWAYS BE WAITING.. ALWAYS.
IT.. IT'S STUCK AGAIN...
★★ THE END ★★

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